2015 Consumer Confidence Report
Your Annual Drinking Water Quality Information

Egremont Treatment Plant

EGREMONT WATER DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 681 | EGREMONT, MA 01258
MA DEP PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ID# 1090000

This report provides a snapshot of the drinking water quality that was achieved last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how its quality compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). MA DEP inspects our system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by a Massachusetts certified operator who oversees the routine operations of our system. Your water is treated by adding a controlled amount of sodium hypochlorite for disinfection and filtered to remove small particles and organisms such as sediment, algae and bacteria. The water is constantly monitored by us and MA DEP to determine the effectiveness of existing water treatment and to determine if any additional treatment is required . As part of our ongoing commitment to you, last year we made the following improvements to our system: Pumps were rebuilt and/or replaced on our maintenance schedule; leak detection was accomplished throughout the year in an effort to save processed water, meters are serviced on a regular basis to assure accurate readings. We have no outstanding deficiencies since our last DEP Sanitary Survey and are working on all State recommendations.

YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

Egremont Water Department's water comes from Kamer Brook, a surface water supply location on Mount Washington Road. The source is designated by MA DEP Source Name and ID Source Number as: Kamer Brook Reservoir [1090000-015]. Maximum daily consumption on the system is 30,000 gallons. Egremont's water system supplies approximately 180 service connections, including 8 businesses, and serves a population of approximately 650 people. The Great Barrington Water Supply is available for emergency use.

How are These Sources Protected?

MA DEP prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report that was published in October 2002 to assist in the identification of potential sources of contamination. A susceptibility ranking of "high" was assigned to this system. There are few activities that pose significant anthropogenic threats to the reservoirs however, due to the nature of surface water supplies, the sources are considered highly vulnerable to potential contamination.

How are These Sources Protected?

The complete SWAP report is available at the Egremont Water Department's Office, or by contacting us at (413) 528-0182 ex 17 or the Western Regional Office of MA DEP at (413)755-2215. You may also view this report online at: http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/wero/1090000.pdf

Prepared by Housatonic Basin Sampling and Testing on behalf of your water supplier. This report is a compilation of best available data sources including licensed operators' reports; water supply owner's coordination; MA DEP public records; and EPA online records. The report represents an accurate account of your water quality to the best of our knowledge.

Egremont Water Department

SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants -such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
Inorganic contaminants -such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.
Pesticides and herbicides -which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
Organic chemical contaminants -including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
Radioactive contaminants -which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS

Does Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. Last year, for all the parameters that were tested, your drinking water met and exceeded all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government. Certain tests were not conducted, or were conducted later than required by state regulation.

Drinking Water Violations

We failed to complete one required sample for each of the following: Synthetic organic compounds (SOC's), disinfection byproducts (DBPs), nitrate, and Sodium in a timely manner. This is a monitoring and reporting violation. Because we did not take the required number of samples, we did not know whether the contaminants were present in your drinking water. We are unable to tell you whether your health was at risk during that time and the health effects are unknown.

Samples for SOC's are due every 3rd year during the second quarter, Nitrate and Sodium due annually in the second quarter and DBP's are due every quarter. Samples for SOC's, DBP's, Nitrate and Sodium were not taken until July 14, 2015 during the third quarter. All samples analyzed had concentrations that meet drinking water standards.

For more information regarding our system you may also visit the EPA website at:
http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/sdwis/search.html

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) –The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

90th Percentile – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Turbidity - A measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guidelines (ORSG) - This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure.

WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

The water quality tables show the most recent water quality testing results where levels were detected and compares those levels to standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency and Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency. MA DEP may reduce the monitoring requirements for *volatile organic contaminants (VOC's), inorganic contaminant (IOC's), or synthetic organic contaminants (SOC's)* because the source is not at risk of contamination. Egremont Water Department currently has a waiver for IOC's and Perchlorate. The last IOC panel was conducted in April 2014. With the exception of those compounds noted on the tables below, all other compounds in the panels reported undetectable levels.

Lead & Copper	Date(s) Collected	90th (%)	Action Level	MCLG	Sites Sampled	# of Sites above Action Level	Possible Source
Lead (ppb)	Quarter 3 2015	9.9	15	0	10	0	Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	Quarter 3 2015	1.7	1.3	1.3	10	3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits and leaching from wood preservatives

Bacteria	Highest # of	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Possible Source
Total Coliform	0	1	0	No	naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform (*E.coli*)	0	*	0	No	human and fecal waste

Turbidity	Treatment Technique	Lowest Monthly % of Samples	Highest Detected Daily Value	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination
Daily Compliance (NTU)	5	——	0.41	NO	Soil runoff
Monthly Compliance	95% min	100	0.41	NO	Soil runoff

*Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. Monthly turbidity compliance is related to a specific treatment technique (TT). Our system filters the water so at least 95% of our samples each month must be below the turbidity limits specified in the regulations.

Inorganic Contaminants						
Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result	Range Detected	MCL or MCDL	MCLG OR MRDLG	Violation
Nitrate (ppm)	26 August 2015	0.23	N/A	10	10	No
*Possible NITRATE Contamination sources include runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits						
Seoondary Contaminants						
Sodium (ppm)	26 August 2015	11	——	——	ORSG-20	No
*Possible SODIUM Contamination sources include natural sources, runoff from use as salt on roadways.						
Other Organic Contaminants and VOC Residuals (highest running average)						
Chloroform (ppb)	7 July 2015	8.9	N/A	Source: chlorination by-product, industrial process		
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	6 October 2015	2.8	N/A	Source: chlorination by-product, industrial process		
Chlorodibromomethane(ppb)	7 July 2015	0.57	N/A	Source: chlorination by-product, industrial process		
Radioactive Contaminants						
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	14 July 2015	0.055	——	15	Sources include erosion of natural soil deposits	
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	14 July 2015	0.12	——	5		
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	14 July 2015	0.43	——	5		
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products –Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids						
(TTHM) (ppb)	14 July 2015	15	11-15	80	N/A	NO
(HAA5)(ppb)	14 July 2015	12	5.7-12	60	N/A	NO
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	Q3 (average)	0.45 average	0.22-0.64	4	4	NO
Other Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants						
pH	Daily	——	6.7-7.5	6.5-8.5	Sources include erosion of natural soil deposits	
Total Dissolved Solids	Daily	——	0.021	500		

UNITS OF MEASURE

ppm	= parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)	N/A	= Not Applicable
ppb	= parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)	NTU	=Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
ND	= Not Detected	pCi/L	=Unit measure of radioactivity

HEALTH NOTES

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Egremont Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should contact their doctor.

Cross connections are potentially hazardous situations for public or private potable water supply and a source of potable water contamination. A cross connection is any potential or actual physical connection between a potable water supply and any source through which it is possible to introduce any substance other than potable water into the water supply. Common Cross connection scenarios are a garden hose whose spout is submerged in a bucket of soapy water or connected to a spray bottle of weed killer.

Cross Connections between a potable water line and a non-potable water system or equipment have long been a concern of the Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). MA DEP established regulations to protect the public health of water consumers from contaminants due to back-flow events. The installation of back-flow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections is recommended. You can purchase this at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your community. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system's cross connection program, please contact us.

Residents can help protect our water resources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance
- Supporting water supply protection initiatives and conservation measures
- Taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days
- Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.

"Water is essential for all dimensions of life."
World Bank Institute
WATER POLICY REFORM PROGRAM - Nov. 1999

Opportunities for Public Participation

If you would like to participate in discussions regarding your water quality, you may attend the following meetings or educational events: Water Board meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at Town Hall.

Contact Us

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